



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

Aug. 31, 2004

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MEDIA ADVISORY

North Dakota Department of Health schedules media conference call to discuss the following issues:

- **State's first West Nile virus-related death in 2004**
- **Whooping cough activity**

(News Releases Follow Below)

BISMARCK, N.D. – To answer media questions about the state's first West Nile virus-related death and whooping cough (pertussis) activity, the North Dakota Department of Health will hold a telephone media availability Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2004, at 1 p.m. The following department officials will participate in the 1 p.m. conference call:

- Dr. Craig Lambrecht, state medical officer
- Heather Weaver, Immunization Program manager
- Tracy Miller, West Nile Virus Surveillance Program manager

To connect to the conference call, the media is asked to follow these steps:

- 1) Dial 866.262.1846.
- 2) Once you are connected, enter *3282378*. (Please note: The star key must be pressed before and after the pin number.)
- 3) If you have trouble connecting, call the help desk at 800.263.3863 option 2.

Members of the media who wish to attend in person can meet at 1 p.m. in the Peace Garden Room on the main floor of the State Capitol Building, Bismarck N.D.

For more information about the conference call, contact Loreeta Leer Frank, public information officer, at 701.328.1665.

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North Dakota Reports First West Nile Virus-Related Death in 2004

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health today announced the state's first West Nile virus-related death in 2004, according to State Medical Officer Craig Lambrecht, M.D. In addition, four other new cases also were identified.

The individual was a resident of northwestern North Dakota who died while hospitalized. According to Lambrecht, the man was older than 60 and had underlying medical conditions that were complicated by West Nile virus infection.

“The death of this man is a reminder of the seriousness of West Nile virus, especially to the elderly and those with other medical concerns,” Lambrecht said. “Although the risk of serious illness to most people is low, I urge residents to continue to take steps to protect themselves from mosquito bites and this virus.”

To reduce the risk of being bitten by mosquitoes that carry West Nile virus, the state health department recommends the following protective measures:

- Limit outdoor activities between dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most likely to bite.
- Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts when possible.
- Eliminate stagnant water and leaf debris in containers around homes where mosquitoes can lay their eggs (e.g., buckets, flowerpots, old tires, wading pools and birdbaths).
- Keep mosquitoes from entering your home by repairing screens in windows and doors.
- Keep the grass around your home trimmed.
- Use insect repellent that contains DEET and is approved by the Environmental Protection Agency. (Read all instructions carefully.)

The following is a summary of West Nile virus activity to date:

- Human cases – 14
 - Total tests conducted – 903
 - Counties: Benson (1), Burke (1), Burleigh (3), Divide (1), Emmons (1), McLean (1), Mercer (2), Sargent (1), Stark (1), Towner (1), Wells (1)
- Human deaths – 1
- WNV-positive dead birds – 44
 - Total dead birds tested – 459
 - Counties – Bottineau, Bowman, Burleigh, Cass, Cavalier, Eddy, Grand Forks, Grant, McHenry, McLean, Morton, Mountrail, Nelson, Pierce, Ransom, Renville, Richland, Ward, Wells, Williams
- WNV-positive live birds – 18
 - Total live birds tested – 430
 - Counties – Billings, Divide, Golden Valley, Grant, Griggs, Hettinger
- WNV-positive horses – 0
 - Total horses tested – 60

For more information about West Nile virus, visit the health department website at www.ndwnv.com or contact Tracy Miller, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.2378.

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Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

State Health Department Reports 586 Cases of Whooping Cough

BISMARCK, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health today announced that 586 cases of whooping cough (pertussis) have been reported in the state. This number reflects cases identified since June 22, 2004.

The following is a breakdown by county of whooping cough cases reported to the department:

Adams – 1	McHenry – 15	Rolette – 13
Barnes – 3	McIntosh – 2	Sargent – 4
Benson – 19	McKenzie – 2	Stark – 10
Bowman – 1	McLean – 21	Stutsman – 6
Burleigh – 63	Mercer – 17	Towner – 1
Cass – 47	Morton – 8	Traill – 2
Divide – 5	Mountrail – 6	Walsh – 1
Dunn – 1	Pierce – 7	Ward – 265
Foster – 1	Ramsey – 1	Wells – 11
Grand Forks – 38	Ransom – 3	Williams – 10
LaMoure – 1	Renville – 1	

Updated whooping cough numbers are posted by noon Monday through Friday on the North Dakota Department of Health's Disease Control website at www.health.state.nd.us/disease. For more information about whooping cough, the public can call 800.472.2180 or a local public health unit.

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Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at www.nddohpressroom.gov.